

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02832 072138Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 /032 W
-----046639 081441Z /66

R 070913Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WAWHDC 322
INFO US MISSION GENEVA 563
AMCONSUL KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS SEOUL 2832

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEES IN ROK

RE: A) STATE 20854 B) STATE 04064 C) STATE 050127
D GENEVA 03114 E) SEOUL 1544 F) STATE 038351

1. CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED THE KOREAN NATIONAL RED CROSS REFUGEE CAMP IN PUSAN ON 4/1/78, TO INTERVIEW THE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED IN THE ROK ON 2/25/78 ABOARD THE KOREAN VESSEL SS SAM DO HO. CURRENTLY, THESE ARE THE ONLY BOAT CASE REFUGEES IN THE ROK. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE REFUGEE WHO WAS HOSPITALIZED FOR TREATMENT OF TB, ALL REFUGEES APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH AND SPIRITS.

2. CONOFF OUTLINED THE PRESENT U.S. REFUGEE PROGRAM TO THE REFUGEES. AS ONLY ONE OF THE REFUGEES APPEARS TO HAVE A QUALIFYING RELATIVE IN THE U.S., HE STRESSED THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE REFUGEES BE WILLING TO ACCEPT AN OFFER OF RESETTLEMENT IN ANY THIRD COUNTRY BEFORE THEY COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR THE U.S. PROGRAM. IN INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS ALL OF THE REFUGEES (SAVE THE INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALIZED) AGREED TO ACCEPT, IF OFFERED, RESETTLEMENT IN ANY THIRD COUNTRY. THEIR AGREEMENT WAS, HOWEVER, GRUDGINGLY GIVEN.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SEOUL 02832 072138Z

3. TO DATE, NO THIRD COUNTRY HAS INDICATED ANY INTEREST IN ANY OF THE REFUGEES. FURTHER, LOCAL UNDP OFFICIAL, ACTING AS UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE, HAS MADE NO EFFORTS TO INTEREST THIRD COUNTRIES IN ACCEPTING ANY OF THE REFUGEES. UNDP OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED US THAT SUCH EFFORTS ON HIS PART ARE NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAS RECEIVED NO

INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNHCR TO TAKE SUCH ACTION. WHEN ASKED WHAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE, HE STATED THAT THEY WERE, BASICALLY, TO BE AS GENERALLY HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. HE HAD RECEIVED A CABLE FROM UNHCR GENEVA, BUT HE WISHED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH US AS HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN IT. CABLE PROVED TO BE A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRENT U.S. REFUGEE PROGRAM (IPP 78), PARTS OF WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN, VERBATIM, FROM REF (F). UNLESS UNHCR GENEVA PROVIDES FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE, WE CAN EXPECT NO ASSISTANCE FROM THAT OFFICE.

4. EMBASSY HAS CONSULTED WITH MR. CHOE, JAE SON, OF BISHOP TJI'S OFFICE, CONCERNING THE SERVICES THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AS THE "OFFICAL" JVR/VOLAG REP IN KOREA. CHOE ADVISED THAT HIS OFFICE WOULD, IF FURNISHED WITH THE BASIC BIO DATA ON THE REFUGEES, FORWARD REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSURANCES TO THE U.S. BEYOND THAT, HIS OFFICE HAS NEITHER THE MANPOWER, NOR THE TRAINING, TO BE OF ANY HELP. THE POST'S PAST EXPERIENCE WITH BISHOP TJI'S OFFICE HAS BEEN THAT THEY ARE WILLING, BUT UNABLE, TO FUNCTION AS THE JVR.

5. TO ASSIST IN PROCESSING THE LAST GROUP OF REFUGEES, USCC SENT A REPRESENTATIVE, SISTER ANNE WISDA, TO KOREA TO FUNCTION AS THE JVR. WE FOUND THAT HER ASSISTANCE WAS INVALUABLE, PARTICULARLY IN ARRANGING FOR THE ASSURANCES AND THE MEDICAL EXAMS. HER PRESENCE IN PUSAN ENABLED HER TO FUNCTION AS AN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SEOUL 02832 072138Z

"ON SITE" MANAGER, AND GREATLY FACILITATED THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS. THE POST REQUESTS, THEREFORE, THAT THE DEPARTMENT URGE USCC TO AGAIN SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO KOREA TO FUNCTION AS THE JVR.
SNEIDER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL02832
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780152-0684
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780480/aaaacqcb.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a1f834b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3039691
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEES IN ROK RE: A) STATE 20854 B) STATE 04064 C) STATE 050127 D GENEVA 03114 E) SEOUL 1544 F) STATE 038351
TAGS: SREF, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1f834b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014